



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOMELESS MAN SENTENCED FOR ATTEMPTING TO ENTICE A MINOR FOR SEX

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a homeless man who used a public library computer to attempt to entice a minor for sex was sentenced in federal court today.

Verdell L. Williams, 39, formerly of North Kansas City, Mo., but staying at the City Union Mission at the time of the offense, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Howard F. Sachs this morning to six years in federal prison without parole.

On Dec. 15, 2004, **Williams** pleaded guilty to using a computer to attempt to entice a minor to engage in illegal sexual activity. According to Graves, **Williams** accessed the Internet through a computer at the Bluford Branch of the Kansas City Public Library. Using a dating service Web site, he contacted a person he believed was a 14-year-old girl through an Internet chat room. **Williams** asked the girl – in reality, a Kansas City, Mo., police officer working undercover – to meet him in person for sex. When **Williams** arrived for the meeting at what he believed was the girl's apartment, he was arrested.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Katharine Fincham. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow